



HIV/AIDS and California Women

- Women are the fastest growing population with AIDS in California. In 2004, 11.8 percent of all AIDS cases, and 13.1 percent of all reported HIV cases were women. In comparison, 5.9 percent of all AIDS cases in 1992 were women (HIV data were not available in 1992).
- The number of children (aged 0 to 12) diagnosed with AIDS (assumed to be through mother to child transmission) has decreased dramatically since 1992. In 2004, 8 children were diagnosed with AIDS compared to 52 in 1992.
- About 85 percent of California females with HIV or AIDS (HIV/AIDS) were of childbearing age (between the ages of 13 and 49).
- Women aged 50 and above constitute 26.4 percent of all California women. This age group represented 12.3 percent of women with HIV/AIDS and they accounted for 12.1 percent of newly diagnosed female HIV/AIDS cases in California in 2004.
- The most common route of exposure to HIV/AIDS for California women aged 13 and above was through heterosexual contact, followed by injection drug use (IDU). Approximately 44.3 percent of women with HIV/AIDS were infected through heterosexual contact, followed by 36.3 percent through IDU.
- Of the racial/ethnic groups, African American/Black women have higher rates of HIV/AIDS than their share of the population. While they comprise 6.6 percent of California's female population, they represent 35.0 percent of female HIV cases and 35.2 percent of female AIDS cases.
- African American/Black women accounted for 34.1 percent and Hispanic/Latina accounted for 33.2 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases among California women in 2004.
- While HIV was the 9th leading cause of death for California women aged 15 to 44 in 2003, it was the 5th leading cause of death for African American/Black women and 8th leading cause of death for Hispanic/Latina in the same age group.

Sources: Office of Women's Health, Office of AIDS (unless otherwise specified data presented are as of December 31, 2004), and Center for Health Statistics. California Department of Health Services. Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity, Gender and Age Report 03 P3. DOF. California, July 1, 2000.